

REMARKS

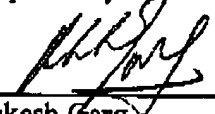
Claims 1-7, 10-14, and 27-29 are pending in the present application. Claims 8-9 have been allowed, claim 1 has been canceled, and claims 2-3, 6, 10, 27-28 have been amended. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended in conducting the telephone conference of January 30, 2006 between the Examiner and the Applicants' Representative.

Applicants believe all remaining claims as amended to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections to the present application and place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: January 31, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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